



Name of Program: Eagle Shield Center

Name of Organization: Blackfeet Nation
Browning, Montana

Choices for Independence Principle: Evidence-Based Prevention/Wellness

Description:

The Blackfeet Nation's Eagle Shield Center, located on the Blackfeet Reservation in Northwestern Montana, serves over 800 elderly and disabled people a year. The Eagle Shield Center offers a wide range of senior programs, from nutrition education and meal delivery to home personal assistance to social, cultural, and health promotion activities.

Eagle Shield Center moved into a new building in 2001 that includes a congregate meal site where breakfast and lunch are served, a meeting room where social, cultural, and health promotion activities take place, and a 16-bed elderly care complex with an exam room for elders. Blackfeet Home Health and the Blackfeet Elder Protection Team are housed at the Center. Additional programs, such as income tax preparation and benefits counseling, are available. Having this wide array of programs available through the Eagle Shield Center make access easier for Tribal elders.

As the result of an AoA Native American Family Caregiver Support Program demonstration grant, they have developed model Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program which has been recognized publicly by the U.S. Administration on Aging. The Blackfeet caregivers program collaborates with other organizations in order to expand their services. For example, they collaborated with the Blackfeet Wellness Program by having elders participate in the Blackfeet Story Telling Day at the grade schools. They have partnered with charitable programs for offering projects such as the Winter Holiday Support for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and were able to provide money to grandparents to purchase Christmas gifts for their grandchildren.

The Eagle Shield Center is an excellent example of building prevention into community living under the Choices for Independence Initiative. A key to the ongoing success of the

Eagle Shield Center is the accessing of other public and private resources to supplement OAA Title VI funding through the leadership of Connie Bremner, Director of the Eagle Shield Center. This program can be replicated by other Tribal Organizations who wish to provide comprehensive services to their elders.

For more information about the Blackfeet Nation's Eagle Shield Center, please contact Connie Bremner at 406-338-7257 or by email at respite@3rivers.net